REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9, 11, 21-25, 29, and 30 are currently pending. Claims 8 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice; and Claims 1, 11, 21, 25, 29, and 30 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11-22, 24, 25, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,310,692 to Fan et al. (hereinafter "the '692 patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,647,056 to Barrett et al. (hereinafter "the '056 patent") and U.S. Patent No. 6,401,116 to Okigami (hereinafter "the '116 patent"), further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,901,286 to Danknick et al. (hereinafter "the '286 patent");[1] Claims 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '692, '056, and '116 patents, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,430,711 to Sekizawa (hereinafter "the '711 patent"); and Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '692, '056, '116, and '286 patents, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,601,040 to Kolls (hereinafter "the '040 patent").

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a method of monitoring a monitored device communicatively coupled to an Internet network, comprising: 1) periodically obtaining, by a first monitoring computer through a firewall at a monitoring site using a first Internet protocol over a wide area network, first device information of the monitored device, the first device information including (1) status information obtained from sensors of the device, and (2) a device identification of the device; 2) storing, by the first monitoring computer, the obtained first device information; 3) processing the first device information and previously

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[1] However, Applicants note that Claims 12-20 are no longer pending.

stored status information of the device monitored by the first monitoring computer to

generate second device information that includes the first device information and the stored

status information; 4) <u>transmitting the second device information at regular, periodic intervals</u>

<u>using a second Internet protocol from the first monitoring computer to a second computer</u>

<u>located at the intranet network of the monitored device</u>; and 5) receiving said second device

information by the second computer, 6) wherein the first monitoring computer is remote from

the device, and the first monitoring computer is the first computer to obtain the first device

information from the device. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed

specification and do not add new matter.[2]

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the Office Action asserts

that the '692 patent discloses everything in Claim 1 with the exception of (1) the first

monitoring computer obtaining the first device information of the device through a firewall,

(2) processing the first device information and previously stored status information to

generate second device information, and (3) that the monitored device is coupled to an

Internet, that the monitoring site is located over a wide area network, and that the second

computer is located at the Internet network of the monitored device, and relies on the '056,

'116, and '286 patents to remedy those deficiencies.

The '692 patent is directed to a printer resource management system that includes a

database that stores, for a printer, at least one pair of attributes that are representative of a

printer resource level and a printer resource threshold for preventive monitoring of the printer

resource. Further, the '692 patent discloses that the printer resource manager receives the

updated printer resource level from the printer (e.g., via SNMP), updates the level in the

database, compares the resource level with the corresponding resource threshold to determine

whether the corresponding printer resource level is deficient, and generates and outputs an

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[2] See, e.g., paragraph [0083] of the published application.

advance notification if the printer resource level is determined to be deficient. In particular, as shown in Figure 3, the '692 patent discloses a printer 250, a server 240 having the printer resource manager 248, and a client 220. Further, as shown in the flowchart in Figure 4, the notification of the low printer resource level is dependent upon the comparison of the resource level with the threshold.

However, as admitted in the outstanding Office Action, the '692 patent fails to disclose periodically obtaining, by a first monitoring computer through a firewall at a monitoring site using a first Internet protocol over a wide area network, first device information of the device, the first device information including status information obtained from sensors of the device and device identification of the device, as recited in amended Claim 1.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that the '692 patent fails to disclose the step of transmitting the second device information at regular, periodic intervals using a second Internet protocol from the first monitoring computer to a second computer located at the Internet network of the monitored device, as recited in amended Claim 1. In this regard, Applicant notes that the passage in column 5, lines 1-14 of the '692 patent relates to communication between the printer and the server, not between the server and another computer using an Internet protocol. Further, as discussed above, the '692 patent disclose in Figures 3 and 4 that the notification of a low printer resource level is output only if the obtained resource levels are less than threshold values. Thus, the '692 patent does not teach or suggest that device information is sent at regular, periodic intervals from a first monitoring computer to a second computer using an Internet protocol, as required by Claim 1.

Further, as admitted in the outstanding Office Action, the '692 patent fails to disclose the obtaining of data through a firewall and the processing step recited in Claim 1.

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The '056 patent is directed to a method for managing access to a peripheral over a local area network with an interactive network board connectable to the peripheral via bi-directional peripheral interface. In particular, as shown in Figure 1, the '056 patent discloses a network interface board (NEB) 2 connected to a printer 4, and the sending of information over a local area network to a network administrative PC 14. As noted in the outstanding Office Action, a log file can be maintained and accessed by the PC 14.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that the '056 patent fails to disclose the processing step recited in Claim 1, as asserted by page 5 of the outstanding Office Action. In this regard, Applicant notes that the passage cited in column 38 of the '056 patent states that the network expansion board NEB maintains a log file that includes daily, cumulative, and average values of the status information, and that the CPCONSOL program is merely able to obtain and display these values on a screen. The '056 patent does not disclose processing first device information and previously stored status information to generate second device information <u>by a first monitoring computer</u>, but discloses that the NEB, which is part of the printer, maintains the status information.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that the '056 patent fails to disclose the step of periodically obtaining, by a first monitoring computer through a firewall and a monitoring site using the first Internet protocol over a wide area network, first device information of the device, as recited in Claim 1. Rather, the '056 patent discloses a local area network and the monitoring of a printer using a network expansion board directly connected to the printer over a local area network. The '056 patent does not disclose any Internet e-mail protocols. Further, Applicant notes that the Office Action appears to rely on the '056 patent merely for the claimed processing of the first device information and previously stored status information of the device monitored by a first monitoring computer.

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Further, Applicant respectfully submits that the '056 patent fails to disclose the step of transmitting the second device information at regular, periodic intervals using a second Internet protocol from the first monitoring computer to a second computer located at the Internet network of the monitoring device, as recited in amended Claim 1.

The '116 patent is directed to a remote trouble management system comprising a plurality of devices connected to the Internet, and a plurality of management servers for managing the plurality of devices individually through one of the Internet and an intranet connected to the Internet. As shown in Figure 1, the '116 patent discloses a firewall 7 connected to a local area network on which is connected a network connected device 5.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that the '116 patent fails to disclose periodically obtaining, by first monitoring computer through a firewall at a monitoring site using a first Internet protocol over a wide area network, first device information of the monitored device, the first device information including status information obtained from sensors of the device and a device identification of the device, as recited in amended Claim 1. In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that the '116 patent fails to disclose periodically obtaining the device information. Rather, the '116 patent discloses the sending of information only when a fault or trouble is detected. Further, the '116 patent does not disclose obtaining the device information through a firewall at a monitoring site, as required by Claim 1. Rather, the '116 patent discloses a firewall at the intranet of the monitored device.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that the '116 patent fails to disclose the step of transmitting the second device information at regular, periodic intervals using a second Internet protocol from the first monitoring computer to a second computer located at the intranet network of the monitored device, as recited in Claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that the '116 patent is silent regarding the sending back of the second device

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information from a first monitoring computer located over a wide area network to <u>a second</u> <u>computer located at the intranet network of the monitored device</u>, as required by Claim 1.

The '286 patent is directed to a method for obtaining information from a peripheral that has an SNMP agent and an http server, the method comprising the steps of executing a browser to retrieve from the peripheral a file that includes a reference to a platform independent segment of executable code; processing the file to request the code segment from the peripheral; receiving and executing the code segment from the peripheral to create an SNMP client; executing the code segment to send a packet from the SNMP client to the SNMP agent and retrieving information concerning the peripheral from the SNMP agent. In particular, as shown in Figure 1, the '286 patent discloses a local area network 15, on which is a copier 11, connected through a multi-device controller 12, and a network interface board 14. The '286 patent also discloses that a workstations 9 and 16 are also connected to the local area network 15.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that the '286 patent fails to disclose the step of <u>transmitting the second device information at regular, periodic intervals using a second</u> <u>Internet protocol from the first monitoring computer to a second computer located at the</u> <u>Internet network of the monitored device</u>, as recited in Claim 1. In this regard, Applicant notes that the Office Action appears to rely on the '286 patent merely for the network architecture shown in Figure 1, in which a workstation is on the same local network as a copier, and the local area network is connected to a wide area network. However, Applicant notes that the '286 patent does not disclose any of the functionality recited in method Claim 1, nor does the Office Action appear to rely on any functionality disclosed by the '286 patent, except to note that the technical support local area network can "communicate" with the local area network 15. However, Applicant notes that Claim 1 requires the step of transmitting of device information using a second Internet protocol from the first monitoring computer to a

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second computer located at the Internet network of the monitoring device. In particular, Applicant notes that Claim 1 is a method claim, and that the '286 patent does not disclose a transmitting step, even if the disclosed network architecture is similar.

Further, regarding the motivation to modify the network disclosed by the '692 patent, Applicant notes that the Office Action states that such a modification would be merely a simple substitution of one known element for another to obtain predictable results. However, Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify the system shown in Figure 3 of the '692 patent since such a modification would destroy the operation of the '692 system. The server 240 in the '692 includes both a supervisor and a spooler 242. In the modification suggested by the outstanding Office Action, the server 240 would be modified such that communication between the printer 250 and the server 240 would be over a <u>wide area network</u> using an Internet protocol. This would require spooling and printing over a wide area network, which would allow confidential printing information outside the local area network of the printer. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to make such a modification to the system disclosed in Figure 3 of the '692 patent. Further, as discussed above, while the '286 patent may disclose a network architecture similar to that recited in Claim 1, the '286 patent does not teach or suggest <u>transmitting</u> the information that has been processed back to a second computer located at the Internet network of the monitored device, as required by Claim 1. A similar network architecture by itself does not render obvious the steps recited in Claim 1.

Thus, no matter how the teachings of the '692, '056, '116, and '286 patents are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest <u>transmitting the second device information at regular, periodic intervals using a second Internet protocol from a first monitoring computer to a second computer located at the Internet network of the monitored</u>

device, as recited in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claim 1 (and all similarly rejected dependent claims) is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1.

Independent Claims 11, 21, 25, 29, and 30 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 1. Moreover, Claims 11, 21, 25, 29, and 30 have been amended in a manner analogous to the amendment to Claim 1. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of Claims 11, 21, 25, 29, and 30 (and all associated dependent claims) are rendered moot by the present amendment to the independent claims.

Regarding the rejection of dependent Claims 2, 5, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicant respectfully submits that the '040 and '711 patents fail to remedy the deficiencies of the '692, '056, '286, and '116 patents, as discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of dependent Claims 2, 5, and 23 are rendered moot by the present amendment to Claims 1 and 21.

Regarding Claim 4, Applicant notes that Claim 4 clarifies that the transmitting step comprises transmitting the second device information to the second computer periodically regardless of the content of the second device information. On the contrary, the '692 patent discloses sending information only when a printer resource falls below a particular threshold. In this regard, Applicant notes that page 7 of the outstanding Office Action states that the '692 patent discloses the limitation added by Claim 4 in column 5, lines 3-14. However, as discussed above, this section of the '692 patent relates to the transmission of information between the printer 250 and the supervisor 246, not between, for example, the supervisor 246 and the second computer, as required by Claim 4. Further, the communication that the '692 patent does disclose between the server 240 and the client 220 is conditional, and based upon
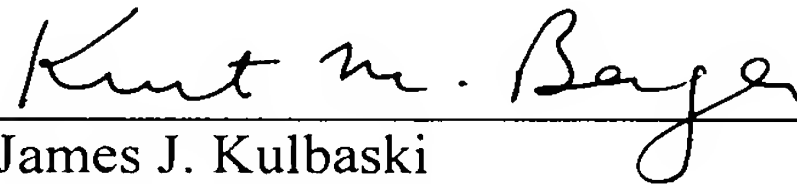
the resource values being below thresholds. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that

Claim 4 patentably defines over any proper combination of the cited references.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 11, 21, 25, 29, and 30

(and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the

cited references.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion,

the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as

amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and

favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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